



HISTORICAL COMMISSION ACTION MINUTES

Regular Meeting of March 28th, 2005
City Council Chambers
1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Foerster, Vice-Chair Drewes, Commissioners Blake, Durekas, Girdley, Hamblin, and Schink.
Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER DUREKAS MOVED that the minutes of the February 28, 2005 Regular Meeting be approved as written. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIRDLEY AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment was presented at the meeting.

SPECIAL ITEM

Paul Foerster, Chair, introduced and welcomed Dorothy Blake to the Commission.

BUSINESS

- A. **Presentation of Remodeling Plans 220 University Avenue** – The owners of 220 University Avenue presented their proposed plans to remodel the open patio area in the rear of the residence to create a family room. The owners indicated all the new construction would be designed to match the existing historic nature of the existing home. VICE-CHAIR DREWES MOVED to approve the enclosed addition at the back of the home above a strengthened garage. COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.
- B. **Review of Municipal Code Regarding Conducting Research for the Historic Resources Inventory (Property, Heritage Trees)** – Recreation Director Brees presented staff's memo and recommendation regarding proposed changes to the Historic Commission's Powers and Duties section of the Municipal Code. The City Attorney's findings included in the memo determined the current Municipal Code allows for the Commission to conduct research or cause research to be conducted.

There was no support on the Commission to approve Staff's recommendation. The Commission expressed frustration regarding the lack of physical access to the archive collection in the vault at the museum and the lack of cooperation on the behalf of the Association of the Los Altos History Museum (Association). Rather than taking action on staff's recommendation, COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN MOVED to appoint a sub-committee to draft language for the municipal code clarifying the language to include physical access to the museum collections and to arrange a meeting with the interested parties. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIRDLEY AND PASSED ON A UNANAMOUS VOICE VOTE.

- C. **"Historic Walking Tour Brochure"** -- Planning Commissioner Carpenter presented the mock up of the proposed Historic Walking Tour Brochure. Planning Commissioner Carpenter introduced the Los Altos Village Association (LAVA) Board President and Executive Director. LAVA is excited about the revised "Historic Walking Tour" brochure and would like to donate \$500 towards additional copies being printed. In exchange for their contribution, LAVA would like to be included as a sponsor on the back of the brochure. COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN MOVED To approve the mock-up and the sponsorship offer from LAVA. VICE-CHAIR DREWES SECONDED THE MOTION. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

- D. **Proper Date for Election of Officers** – Municipal Code 2.08.050 March or Municipal Code 2.12.020 January

The Commission will continue to follow the March election practice. The Commission will review their ordinance for any additional discrepancies between the Historical Commission's elements of the Municipal Code and other sections of the Code. A report to Council on any discrepancies that might exist will be considered at some point in the future.

REORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION (Election)

COMMISSIONER GIRDLEY MOVED TO nominate Vice-Chair Drewes as Chair. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUREKAS AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

COMMISSIONER DUREKAS MOVED TO nominate Commissioner Girdley as Vice-Chairman. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

- A. **Neutra Relocation Committee Report** - Chair Drewes reported City staff had identified the Community House and Hillview Community Center lot location as the best site for the Neutra Cottage. .
- B. **Evaluation of 160 West Portola for Addition to the Historic Resources Inventory (HRI)**
VICE-CHAIR GIRDLEY MOVED to assign a total score of 63 to 160 West Portola. THE

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FOERSTER AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

- C. **Evaluation of a Ratings' Change for 41 Hawthorne on the HRI** - COMMISSIONER DUREKAS MOVED to raise the total rating from 54 to 74 on 41 Hawthorne. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN GIRDLEY AND PASSED BY SIX VOTES-ONE ABSTENTION (COMMISSIONER HAMBLIN ABSTAINED.)
- A. **Essay Contest** – Commissioner Durekas reported the judging of the Essays went well. A museum volunteer is helping personalize the Certificates of Participation and the Winners' Certificates.
- B. **Distribution of Final Commission Minutes** –Approved Commission minutes go on to the City website after Recreation Department staff are made aware the minutes have been approved.
- C. **Protocol for Evaluation of Changes to HRI Properties** – This item was tabled to a future meeting.
- D. **Agenda Items for the April 25, 2005 Meeting** – Neutra Relocation Report, Essay Contest and Ice Cream Social, and Protocol for Evaluation of Changes to HRI Properties will be on the April Agenda.

STAFF REPORT

- 1. Historical Commission Budget versus Actual(s): \$12.21 spent from February 28, 2005 to March 28, 2005
- 2. HRI Access Template Orientation for Commissioners Girdley and Blake will be scheduled in the future
- 3. "Commissioner Orientation," scheduled for March 31, 7 – 9 pm, Thursday, City Hall,
- 4. "Annual Statements of Economic Interest" Reminder Only
- 5. Reminder: The May 23, 2005 meeting precedes the Memorial Day Holiday (May 30, '05).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.